

While this case has dragged on in the courts, the brave little boy at the center of this tragedy has learned to walk and ride a bike. But his medical needs are still not being met. This debate is about helping hard-working families like this one get the best health care possible for their families. Nothing more, nothing less. To obtain this we need to support the Patients' Bill of Rights and oppose the unenforceable Republican plan.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Madam Speaker, it is much easier to be a liberal than to be a conservative. Just consider for a moment what has been said by our colleagues on the other side during the debate on managed care over the past 2 weeks. The pattern here, you can see on almost every public policy issue. First, declare a crisis. Really? Although we know there are problems with legitimate managed care, the polls show 90 percent of the people with this care are satisfied. Second, propose a solution that will make the problem worse, thus giving the Democrats more opportunity to declare a crisis. The solution for the other side is always the same, more mandates, more lawyers, and, let us not forget, more government. This will raise the price, making health care less affordable than it was before. The final step is to deny that their proposal will do anything of the sort. Then in a few years when the problem is even worse, they will declare their outrage again, just as they are doing now.

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MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, last week a very good friend of mine went to the hospital to have a malignant tumor removed from his bladder. It was extensive surgery. It was outpatient surgery. He was sent home 5 hours after the surgery with a catheter and a bag at his waist line. This is outrageous. Later in the week, he did get a fever from an infection.

We cannot let this happen to the people in our country. We must have real patient reform. We have to protect the patients in our health care system. Do not vote today for a faux reform, or tomorrow, faux Republican reform. We need the Dingell-Ganske bill. We need to let doctors and patients decide when to send a cancer patient home from the hospital after extensive surgery.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN

(Mr. RYUN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN. Madam Speaker, no civilized society should condone or even tolerate a heinous procedure such as partial birth abortion. Congress will again pass a ban on partial birth abortion and this time the President should sign the ban.

By his past veto, the President has demonstrated that he is out of step with 85 percent of the American people who support an end to this heinous procedure. With this in mind, I want to tell you about a miracle baby girl named Sarah.

Sarah appeared last year on CBS's "Mysteries and Miracles." When she was only four inches long, Sarah was taken briefly from her mother's womb to remove a growing tumor.

Sarah's heart stopped beating during the surgery, and the surgeon performed CPR for 20 minutes to revive her. In July of 1996, Sarah was delivered by C-section and is now a healthy toddler.

Unfortunately, even as lives like Sarah's are being saved by scientific breakthroughs, others are being extinguished through abortion. The care Sarah received from her surgeons provides a stark contrast to the treatment her mother might legally have chosen: a partial birth abortion.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, everyone is talking about patients' rights. It is simple to talk about wanting patients to have rights and access to care. It is another thing, however, to provide for that in legislation.

There are two contending bills. Let me go through them. Access to enforcement in State courts: The Democratic bill, yes; the Republican bill, no. Protection for women after mastectomy: Democratic bill, yes; Republican bill, no. Choice of doctors within the plan: Democratic bill, yes; Republican bill, no. Access to specialty care: Democratic bill, yes; Republican bill, no. Direct access to OB/GYNs: Democratic bill, yes; Republican bill, no.

There are other provisions that I will not be able to cover in this 1 minute. But as we hear this debate and people talk about patients' rights, hold them to the criteria of not just talking about patients' rights, but ensuring patients' rights.

VETO OF EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT BILL

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, once again, the counterfeit logic of the Democrats and this President have put the children of America at risk.

I am not talking about the sale of classified military technology to China. I am talking about the President's veto of the Education Savings Account bill. Put aside for the moment that this bill would have allowed parents to save for the future education of their children. The bill he just vetoed would have given schools greater leeway to expel and discipline students who bring guns or other weapons to school.

The bill he vetoed would have permitted school officials to implement safety measures to protect innocent children. How many times have we all heard the President state that safety at schools was one of his top priorities?

Madam Speaker, we can no longer sit idly by while the violence in schools continues to rise. Congress must override his veto and pass legislation that will enable our schools to develop local policies that end school violence.

Parents, teachers, and especially students all across America should not have to wait one more hour, one more day, or one more week for safer schools. Our children should be working on their education, not worrying about their safety.

I urge the President to reconsider and retract his veto and start protecting our children.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, make no mistake, the differences between the Democrats' Patients' Bill of Rights and the Republican HMO proposal are major. The Republican bill excludes key provisions that are essential for consumer protection and includes provisions that would reduce current consumer protections.

The Republican HMO plan seeks to give the appearance of reform without the reality. Among other gaps, the Republican plan still leaves medical decisions in the hands of insurance company accountants instead of doctors. It does not limit HMOs' and insurance companies' use of improper financial incentives to limit needed care. It allows drive-through mastectomies and fails to contain a requirement for coverage for reconstructive surgery after mastectomy. It does not give access to specialty care where needed.

The Republican bill does not guarantee patients access to needed drugs or clinical trials. And most important, the Republican bill provides no effective mechanism to hold plans accountable when plan abuse kills or injures someone.

Democrats will insist on a bill that contains guarantees that are a significant gain for health care consumers. The Republican plan is basically a sham.

CENSUS DEBATE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House